THE Rare and most wonderfull things which Edvv. Webbe an Englishman borne, hath *seene and passed in his troublesome* trauailes, in the Cities of Ierusalem, *Damasko, Bethlehem and Galeby:* and in the landes of Iewrie, *Egypt, Grecia, Russia, and Prester Iohn.*

Wherein is set forth his extreame *slauery sustained many yeeres* together in the Gallies and warres of the great *Turke, against the landes of Persia, Tartaria, Spaine, and Portugale, with the manor* of his releasement and comming into England in May last.

Newly enlarged and corrected by the Author.

LONDON
Printed for William Wright.
1590.

LONDON
Printed for William Rigbe.
1590.

To the most Mighty, my gratious and renowned Soueraigne, Elizabeth by the grace of God Queene of England, *France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c.*

Your Highnesse most humble subiect Ed. Webbe heartily prayeth for the continuance of your *Maiesties health and prosperous raigne to the worldes ende.*

COnsidering (most gracious and dread Soueraigne) the wonderfull prouidence of Almightie God shewed towardes your Highnesse since the time of your most happie and prosperous raigne, aswell in the preseruation of your Maiesties person from the handes of your Highnes enemies, as also in defending this small Angle or Realme of England from the force of forraine foes, and the continuall blessinges of peace and plentie; with which euer since hee hath in bountifull sort maintayned it: I could not therefore but (according to my duetie) render humble thankes to almightie God for the same, when to my great comfort, euen in the middest of my grieuous thraldome in Turkey, I hard it most truely reported by a Christian captiue, and your Highnesse clemencie by him highly commended. The report of whose fame truely described, aswell in the administration of Iustice, and supporting

of Christian religion, as also in relieuing and succouring the poore distressed mẽbers of this land, gaue me iust cause to pray heartily for my deliuerie, and to long inwardly vntill I came to see your Highnesse (my dread Soueraigne) and this my natiue Countrie. And now hauing obtayned my long expected wish, I doe in all humblenesse prostrate my selfe and this plaine discourse of my trauels to your most excellent Maiestie: wherein may be seene that if in Turkey I would haue denyed my Christ, or in my trauaile would haue forsaken my Prince to haue serued for Spaine, thereby to haue become a Traytour to your Maiestie and my natiue Countrey, I needed not to haue liued in want, but in great prosperitie. But forasmuch as almightie God hath now set me free from thraldome and deliuered mee from many dangers, and sent me into Englande, my desire is that I may be imployed in such seruice & affaires, as may be pleasing to God, and found profitable to my Prince and Countrie. And thus trusting your Highnes will accept in good worth this true discourse though rudely penned I humbly take my leaue, praying for the prosperous health and continuall raigne of your most excellent Maiestie.

Your Highnesse most humble subiect,

Edward Webbe.

The Epistle to the Reader.

COurteous Reader, I haue vndertaken in this short discourse, to vtter the moste part of such things as I saw and passed in the time of my troublesome trauaile and slauish life sustained in the Gallies, and warres of the great Turke.

And this I protest, that in this booke there is nothing mentioned or expressed but that which is of truth, and what mine owne eyes haue perfectly seene. Some foolish persons perhaps will cauil & say, that these are lies and fained fables, and that it conteineth nothing else: but to those I answere, that what soeuer is herein mentioned, he whosoeuer he be, that shall so finde fault and doubt of the trueth hereof, let him but come and conferre with me or make enquiry of the best and greatest Trauellers and Marchantes about all this land: and they doubtles shall be resolued that this is true which is here expressed: with a great deale more, which now I cannot call to remembrance, for that my memorie faileth me, by meanes of my great and grieuous troubles.

And whereas in the first edition of this booke a great fault in number did negligently escape in Folio 3. in these words 30. thousand for 300. thousand: and 50. thousand for 500. thousand: that fault is truely amended in this Edition. From my lodging at Black-wall, this nineteenth of May, 1590.

Your louing Countrey man,
Edward Webbe.

Verſes written vpon the Alphabet of the Queenes Maieſties name.

E ternall God who guideth ſtill your grace,
L engthen your life in health and happie ſtate:
I nſpire your ſubiects hearts in euerie place,
Z ealous in loue and free from ſecret hate,
A nd ſhorten life in thoſe that breed debate.
B ehold her Lord, who is our ſtrength and ſtay,
E uen ſhe it is, by whom we hold our owne:
T urne not thy face from her in any way,
H ew downe her foes and let them all be knowne.

R enowmed Queene your Highneſſe ſubiects ioy,
E euen for to ſee the fall of all your foes,
G od of his mercy ſhield you from annoy,
I ntended treaſons ſtill for to diſcloſe:
N one of vs all but will moſt duly pray,
A lmightie God preſerue you night and day.

FINIS.

E. Webb his trauailes.

I Edwarde Webbe an Englishman, borne at Saint Katherins neere the tower of London, was the sonne of one Richard Webb maister gunner of England, my father hauing some naturall affection to me, when I was but xij. yeares old, did preferre mee to the seruice of Captaine Jenkenson, at such time as he was sent ambassadour into Russia, with whom I went by sea and vpon him I was daily attendant: in which my iourney, I was conuersant among the people of that countrey which were apparelled like to the Turkes and Tartarians with furde caps & long garments downe to their shinnes: much like to Carbines or Horsemen readie to the warre. There I made my abode some space in the head citie of Russia called Mulko, in which their building is all of firre, except the Emperours Court, which is of lime and stone. They execute very sharpe lawes among themselues, and are a kinde of tyrannous people as appeareth by their customes, of which among many other, these I speactally noted, viz. that if any man be indebted one to another, and doth not make payment at his day and time appointed: the officers may enter vpon the debters and forceably breake downe their houses and imprison them in grieuous sort: where iudgement shall presently passe against him, which is with a mallet of wood he shall haue so many blowes on the shins or on the forehead as the Iudge shall award: and this punishment shall be inflicted sundrie dayes vpon him. The Turkes also vseth to beate debters with a mallet, but not in that sort, for in Turkey they are beaten for debt vpon the soles of the feete with a Cane or cudgel if payment be not made by a day. I also noted, that if any noble man offend the Emperour of Russia, the sayde

Noble man is taken and imprisoned with all his children and kinsfolkes, and the first great frost that commeth (for the countrey is wonderfull cold and subiect to frosts) there is a great hole made in the Ise ouer some great riuer, and then the partie principall is first put in, and after him his wife, his children, and all other his kinsfolkes, and so leaue none of his posteritie to possesse his landes or goods but the same are bestowed vpon others at the Emperors pleasure. There I stayed three yeares attendant on my Maister, in which time the crym-Tartarians otherwise named the new Christians, made warre vpon the sayd citie of Musko, which soone after was betrayed and speedely burned, the people in great aboundance massacred, and the Tartarian souldiers had wonderfull rich spoyles in the same: there was I at that time with seuen other Englishmen taken prisoners, and for slaues were altogether conuayed to Caffa, where the king of the Tartarians abideth and keepeth a stately Court: being conueyed thether we were set to wipe the feete of the kinges horses, and to become ordinary slaues in the sayd Court, to fetch water, cleaue wood, and to doe such other drudgerie. There were we beaten three times a weeke with a Bulls pissell, or a horse tayle. And in this sort and miserable seruitude wee stayed there fiue yeares, then were we raunsomed from thence by our friends, where we payde euery man three hundred crownes which is seuen shillings fiue pence a peece, of currant English money: among that people called the Tartarians, I noted specially this one thing, that their children being newborne, do neuer open their eyes vntill they be nine dayes and nine nights old. Thus beeing raunsomed as is afore-sayd, I returned home into England, where hauing staied some small time, I went againe into Russia in the Hart of maister Kings at Ratcliffe with thirtie sayle of ships more in our company, at which time her Maiesties shippe called the Willoughby was our Admirall, and the Harry appertayning

pertayning to the company of the Marchantes was our vize Admirall, Maſter William Burrow then being our Captaine and maſter. In which our voyage we met with fiue Rouers or men of warre whom we ſet vpon, & burnt their Admirall and brought thoſe ſhippes into Narre, and there the men were maſſacred in this maner by the Ruſſians: firſt great ſtakes ſtroken into the ground, and they ſpitted vpon powles as a man would put a pigge vpon the ſpitte, and ſo ſeuen ſcore were killed in that manner in a very tyrannous ſort. We laded our burthen at Narre, and toke in other lading for our commodities, but the ſhip wherein I was which was called the Hart, hauing ſayled but twelue miles from thence ſtroke vpon a rocke, whereby the ſhippe and goods were loſt, the reſidew of the fleete had no harme, and all the men in our ſhip ſaued their liues by taking them into the boate of the ſayde ſhippe.

By meanes of which ſhippe ſo caſt away, I loſt all that I had, and then came againe into England and gathered a new ſtocke, and in the Henrie of London I went to Leuanta alias Legorne. This ſhippe called the Henrie, had beene ſolde before to Doctor Hector and other Italian Marchants, which was vnknowen vnto vs ſo that at our coming to Legorne the ſhip was ſeaſed on by the factors of thoſe that were the owners thereof, and by them laden with marchandice to Alexandria, in which ſhipp my ſelfe was maſter gunner.

But here Fortune began to lower on me againe, and turne her wheele in ſuch ſort againſt me, as that I was ſone after brought to liue in greater ſlauery, then euer I did before, for we hauing ſafely arriued at Alexandria, diſcharged our burthen: and fraught our Shippe with great ſtore of that countrie commodities, and returning backe to Legorne, ſodeinly in the way, wee met with fiftie ſaile of the Turkes Gallies: with which Gallies we fought two daies and two nightes, and made great ſlaughter amongſt

their men, we being in all but threéscore men, verie weake for such a multitude, and hauing lost fiftie of our 60. men: faintnes constrained vs to yéeld vnto them, by reason wée wanted winde to helpe our selues, and the calme was so great a helpe vnto them, as there was no way for vs to escape. Thus did the Turkes take the Ship & goods, and in the same found ten of vs liuing whom they toke prisoners, and presently stripped vs naked, and gaue vs 10. blowes a péece with an Ore pissell, for presuming to fight against them. Then were wée sent to Constantinople, and committed vnto the Gallies, where wee continued the space of fiue yeares: the manner of our liuing there was thus. First, we were shauen head and face, and then a shert of Cotten and bréeches of the same put vpon vs: our legges and féete left naked: and by one of the féete is each slaue chained with a great chaine to the Gallie, and our handes fastned with a paire of Manacles. The foode which I and others did eat, was verie black, far worse then Horse bread: and our drinke was stinking water, vnlesse it be when wée come to the places where we toke in fresh sweet water, at which time we supposed our diet to be verie daintie.

Thus as I said before, I remained fiue yeares in this miserable estate, wonderfully beaten & misused euery day: there haue I séene of my fellowes when they haue béene so weake as they could not rowe by reason of sickenes and

faintnes:

faintnes: where the Turkes would laie vpon them as vpon Horses, and beate them in such sort, as oft times they died, and then threw them into the Sea.

Thus seeing my selfe still to continue in this miserable state, I was constrained for want of victuals, to discouer my selfe and to shew them that I had good skill in Gunners Art, which I thought would haue been greatly well esteemed at the Turkes handes: but then for the same I was more narrowly loked vnto, yet somewhat better esteemed of then I was before. Not long after the Turke made warres against the Persians, and gathered 700. thousand men togither, and these were conducted by his chiefe Bassaes into Persia. At which time (for that had skill in Artillery) I was chosen forth of the Gallies to goe with the Armye into Persia, and there to doo the Turke service in the field, with whom I trauelled on foote, but in our going thither, there died of our Armye by meanes of great sicknes, disdiet, and want of victuals, about the number of 300. thousand: so that when we came into Percia, we were 400. thousand strong in the field, there wee rested vs one moneth, by which time wee hauing hartened our selues, gaue a fierce assault vpon the Persians, where the Turkes side got the worst, and lost 60. thousand men. Then the Generall ouer the Turkes Army, whose name was Sannon Basha, sent vs so many souldiers more as made vs 500. thousand strong, there wee staied a long time, making warres against the Persians and the great Citie of Damasko, where the Turke litle preuailed: for if the Turke were as politicke as he is strong of power, the Persians were not able to resist him. Thus leauing the Turkes Army in Pearcia, we came through Damasko to our Citie called the great Caier, which Citie is threescore miles in compasse, and is the greatest Citie in the worlde, it standeth vpon the River of Nilo, and in the saide Citie there is twelue thousand Churches which they terme Mus-

kots. This Citie at all times keepeth fortie thousand men continually in Souldiers pay, and are readie at one houres warning to serue vnder the great Turke: there we staied to see the cutting or parting of the Riuer of Nilo, which is done once euery yeare, vpon the 25. day of August. This Citie standeth in the land of Egypt, and is vnder the gouernment of the great Turke. And there is a king ouer the said Citie, who is called the king of the great Caer, and is the Vize Roy or Lieftenant to the great Turke, and he is then present at the cutting of this riuer of Nilo: at which time there is great triumph, and euery Towne and Countrie round about, to the valew of a thousand mile) send gifts and presents to the King of the great Caer, in consideration of the water which commeth to them from that Riuer of Nilo, by meanes of the cutting of it, which is but once euery yeere.

It is therefore to be knowne, that in the land of Egypt it raineth not at all, and all the grounde throughout the land of Egypt is continually watred by the water which vpon the 25. day of August is turned into the countries round about, by meanes of the wonderfull growing and swelling of the water vpright without any staie at all, on one side thereof to the height of a huge mountaine, which beginneth to encrease the 15. day of August, and by the 25. of August is at the highest, on which day it is cut, by diuiding of two pillers in a straunge sort, neer to the citie of the great Caer, and so turned of as from a great mountaine into the lande of Egypt: by meanes whereof the Turke holdes all the lande of Egypt in subiection to himselfe, and might if hee woulde diminish them cleane from hauing anie water at all.

From thence I went with the Turkes power and vnder his conduction to the land of Iewry, and from thence to the citie of Ierusalem, where part of the olde Temple is yet standing, and many Monuments of great antiquitie,

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as hereth after shall be shewed. In the land of Siria, there is a Riuer that no Iew can get or catch any fish in it at all, and yet in the same Riuer there is great store of fish like vnto Samon Troutes. But let a Christian or a Turke come thither and fish for them, & either of them shall catch them in great abundance, if they do but put their hand into the water with a litle bread, and an hundreth will be about his hand.

Thus hauing seene a number of rare and most wonderfull things, we went to the citie of Agolua, which is the head and chiefe Citie in all the East Indies, there we gaue battell against the Christians that keep the said citie, which are Portingalles, for that the Towne appertaineth to the King of Portingal. There we gaue battel & lost three score thousand of the great Turkes men, and yet could not obtaine it: neuerthelesse the great Turkes Liefetenant or Generall with his power, toke a place called Armous, where they had great store of treasure and Soldes of siluer.

Thus being chiefe maister Gunner in these Turkish warres, I was sent for againe by commandement of the Turke to Damasko, where I stayed all that winter with twentie thousand men. And from thence made prouision to make warres against the land of prester John, who is by profession a Christian. In this land of prester John, when it doth raine, it continueth at the least one whole moneth. And in the gran Caer, there is a plague once in euerie seuenth yeere, which commeth with such a fiercenes, that the most part of all the people there do die of the saide plague: and people in great numbers lose their eye sight with the vapours and great heat which commeth from the ground.

I remember one battaile which the Admirall of the great Turke named Ally Basha, made with three score Gallies, and seazed vpon a Town where the said Ally Basha was borne himselfe, named Trybusas, which is in the Confines of Calabria, and vnder the gouernement of

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the King of Spaine, at which Towne he landed his Army an houre before day, thinking to haue taken it by treason: and thereupon in great fury scaled the wals with Lathers: but the watch bewrayed vs, and on a sodaine, cried Arme, arme, which was soone done: for euery man tooke him to his toles and weapons of defence. But it is worthy of memory, to see how the women of that Towne did ply themselues with their weapons, making a great Massacre vpon our men, and murthered 500. of them in such speedie and furious sort as is wonderfull: wee needed not to haue feared their men at all, had not the women bin our greatest ouerthrow, at which time I my self was maister Gunner of the Admirals Gally, yet chained greeuously, and beaten naked with a Turkish sword flatling, for not shooting where they would haue me, and where I could not shoote.

It is but a few yeeres since that in the citie of Constantinople, there happened a great plague, where there dyed in fiue moneths space, seuen hundreth thousand persons, at which time Maister Harbarne Ambassadour for the Turkey company was there, and lost sundry of his seruants.

From Damasko we went into the land of Prester John who is a Christian, and is called Christien de Sentour: that is, the Christian of the Gerdell: against this Prester John, I went with the Turkes power, and was then their maister Gunner in the field, the number of Turkish Souldiers sent thither, was fiue hundreth thousand men who went thither by land, and pitched themselues in battaile ray at Saran, neere to the place where the sonne of Prester John keepeth his Court. There Prester John with his power, slew of the Turkes to the number of fortie thousand, onely by pollicy of draw Bridges to let forth water, made as secrete Slewses for that purpose, in which water so many Turkes perished. The next day following, the Turkes power did incompasse Prester Johns sonne and tooke him prisoner, and sent him for a Present to the

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great Turkes Court then being at Constantinople, but soone after, Prester John himselfe made an agreement betweene the great Turke and his sonne, that the one should not demaund tribute of the other, and so his sonne was released and sent home againe.

It is to be understood that the great Turke paide tribute vnto Prester John, before the time of these warres, and the Turke did demaund a tribute of Prester Johns sonne, which had beene paide vnto him many yeares before: whereupon Prester John, when his sonne was taken prisoner, gaue consent to forgiue the one tribute for the other, and thereby they were set at libertie the one from the other.

This Prester John of whom I spake before, is a king of great power, and keepeth a verie bountifull Court, after the fashion of that Country, and hath euery day to serue him at his Table, 60. Kings, wearing Leaden Crownes on their heades: and these serue in the meate vnto Prester Johns Table: and continually the first dish of meate set vpon his Table is, a dead mans scull cleane picked and laid in blache earth, putting him in minde that hee is but earth and must die. These 60. Kings are all his Vize Roys in seuerall places, and they haue their deputies to supply their rowmes, and these Kings liue continually in Prester Johns Court, and goe no farther then they may be still attendant vpon him, without leaue from their Emperour Prester John.

In the court of Prester John, there is a wilde man, and an other in the high streete at Constantinople, whose allowance is euery day a quarter of ram Mutton: and when any man dieth for some notorious offence, then are they allowed euery day a quarter of mans flesh. These wilde men are chained fast to a post euerie day, the one in Prester Johns court, and the other in the high streete of Constantinople, each of them hauing a Mantell cast about their

shoulders, and all ouer their bodies they haue wonderfull long haire, they are chained fast by the necke, and will spedely deuour any man that commeth in their reach.

There is a beast in the court of Prester Iohn, called Artans, hauing foure heades, they are in shape like a wilde Cat, and are of the height of a Mastie Curre.

In his court also there is Fowles called Pharoes fowles, whose fethers are verie beautifull to be worne, these fowles

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are as big as a Turkey, their flesh is verie sweet, and their feathers are of all maner of colours.

There is Swannes in that place, which are as large again as the Swans of England, and their feathers are as blew as any blew cloth.

I haue seene in a place like a parke adioyning vnto Prester Johns Court, three score and seuentéene Vnicornes and Olyphants all alone at one time, and they were so tame that I haue played with them as one would playe with young Lambes.

Where Olyphants together with many other manie tame beastes will not drinke of any water vntill the Vnicornes doe begin thereof: these Vnicornes when they come to drinke of any riuer, they put in their horne which is blackish and but short: and forth of that water will rise a great skum, and thereby clense all the filth and corruption that is within the same, and this horne grated to pouder in drinke, is a present remedie against any maner of poyson.

When Prester-John is serued at his table, there is no salt at all set on in any saltseller as is in other places, but a loafe of bread is cut crosse, and then two knyues are layde a crosse vpon the loafe, and some salt put vpon the blades of the knyues and no more.

Being thus in the lande of Prester John, I trauailed within eightéene degrées of the Sunne, euery degrée being in distance three score miles.

I was at the Red sea at the place where Moses made passage with his wand for the children of Israell, where I saw a shippe called the graund Maria, she drawes but fiue foote water, and against this shippe three score gallyes and shippes haue fought at one time and can not conquer her: and this is vnder the gouernement of the great Turke.

This shippe is built almost flatte, and is of such burthen, that she will carry in her ten thousand fighting men, with their furniture.

I haue been in the Courts of the three great Patriarks, the first whereof is kept at Jerusalem, the seconde at the gran Caer, and the third is at Constantinople: these haue their Courtes in very stately sort, and attended on by none but Princes.

When I was at Jerusalem I saw the sepulcher where in it is sayde that Christ was buried: it is as it were in a vault, and hath seuen dores and seuen rees of marble steps as stayers to goe downe into the same, and then at the bottome of the stayers there is a faire Chappell, with an Altar and a Lampe burning continually day and night before it, and the graue is full of white earth so white as chalke, and a tombe of the same earth made and layde vpon stone, whereon are sundrie letters written, but I could not read them. Vpon the left hand of which Chappell is a rocke of stone, of a blackish colour, being all of that stone that we commonly call the load stone, which is of this nature, that it will draw Iron vnto it: this stone is the principallest instrument which Mariners & Saylers do vse for directing of their compasse at the sea.

The great Turke hath some profit comming by the keeping of this monument, hath therefore builded at his owne charges an Hospitall within Jerusalem, which his Generaries do keepe: and this Hospitall is to receiue all Pilgrims and trauellers to lodge in when so euer they come. And all that come to see the sepulcher doe pay ten Crounes a piece, whereof the Turke hath but one, and the rest goes to the Church, and so they may stay there so long as they list to lodge in that new Hospitall, and haue lodging, bread, victualls and water so long as they will remaine there, but no wine: such as come thether for pilgrims haue no beds at all, but lie vpon the ground on turkey karpets, and before the sepulchre of Christ there is masse sayde euery day, & none may say the Masse there, but a man that is a pure virgine: there was one that died when I was there, that daily sayde and sung the masse before the sepulchre, and he was an hundred and thirtie yeares of age before his death, and now another is in their roome, but whether the old man that dead is, or this which is now in place to sing and say the sayde Masse, were pure virgins I know not, but sure I dare

I dare not swere for them, because they are men, and flesh and bloud as other are.

After that I had thus long trauelled and spent my time in the wars and affayres of the great Turke, I was returned againe to Constantinople, where at my ariuall a penny loafe of English starling money, was worth a crowne of golde, such was the sicknesse, miserie, and dearth then vpon the saide citie, and happie was hee that so could get bread to eate. Neuerthelesse, because I was a Christian, and for that the Turke had no cause presently to vse me in my office of gunnership, I was there imprisoned, where I found two thousand Christians pinde vp in stone walles lockt fast in yron chaynes, grieuously pinched with extreme penury, and such as wished death rather then in such miserie to liue: amongest these was I placed, and tooke part with them accordingly: greeuing at my hard hap that the warres had not ended me before I came thether.

Thus I remayned there with the rest, garded and daily watched, that we could stirre no manner of way, there we were suffered to worke vpon any manner of trade or occupation wherein we were any way expert: and what we did or made, we solde to the Turkes, and they gaue vs money for the same: and thus were we suffered to worke vntill it were time to goe and gather snowe, which is there vsed yearely of custome to be gathered: for the Turke hath great summes of money payde him for the sayde snowe, which is gathered and solde to his subiectes for a penny the pound, which pound, is two pound and a halfe English: and this snowe they vse only to coole their drinke in the sommer season. And no man may sell any snowe vntill the Turke hath solde all his.

Thus liuing in this flauish life as is afore saide, a long time, diuerse of vs complotted & hamered in our heads how we might procure our releasement: wherupon I attempted with the consent of fiue hundreth Christians, fellow slaues

with

with my selfe, to break a wall of fourtéene foote broad, made of earth, lyme, and sand, which we greatly moystened with strong viniger, so that the wall beeing made moy[illegible] with through the helpe of a spike of yron, fiue hun[illegible] vs had almost escaped out of prison: but looke wh[illegible]ll be, shall be, and what God will haue, shall come to [illegible]se and no more, as appeareth by vs, for we hauing made meanes for our speedie flight, as we were issewing forth, we were bewrayed by the barking of a dogge, which caused the Turkes to arise, and they taking vs with the maner, stopped vs from flying away and gaue vs in recompence of our paynes taking herein, seuen hundreth blowes a péece with a bulls pissell vpon the naked skinne, viz. thrée hundred on the belly, and foure hundred on the backe.

Thus lying still prisoner in the Turkes dungeons, it pleased God to send thether for the releasement of me and others, a worthy gentleman of this land, named Maister Harborne Ambassadour thether for the company of Marchants, who to the great honour of Englande did behaue himselfe wonderfull wisely, and was a speciall meanes for the releasement of me and sundry other English captiues, who were set at libertie soone after the death of the great Basha: thus by the meanes of the sayd master Harborne I was set frée from thraldome, and by him sent into England where I arriued on the first of May. 1589.

Whilest I was remayning prisoner in Turkey, and kept in such slauish maner as is before rehearsed, the great Turke had his sonne circumcised, which was the fore-skin of his priuie members was taken off, at which time there was great triumphes and frée libertie proclaymed for a hundred dayes space, that any Nobleman, gentleman, traueller, Christian or other, might freely (without being molested) come and see the triumphes there vsed, which were wonderfull: I my selfe was then constrayned to make a running péece of fire worke framed in forme like to the

Arke

Arke of Noye, beeing 24. yardes high, and eight yardes broad, wherin was placed 46. men drawen on six wheeles, yet no man seene, but seemed to go alone, as though it were onely drawen by two fiery Dragons, in which shewe or Arke there was 12. thousand seuerall peeces of fire worke.

At the same time that I was released, there were set at libertie about twentie English men, whereof I was one of the last: some of them are at this present in England. My selfe and others were released by meanes of her Maiesties fauourable Letters sent to the great Turke, brought by the aforesaid Maister Harborne: some by the raunsome money gathered at sundry times by the Marchants in the Citie of London, for that godly purpose: of which, some of their names that were released were these. Hamond Pan, John Beere, John Band, Andrew Pullins, Edward Buggins and others.

Here may the bountifull Citizens of London see (as in a glasse) the fruits of their liberalitie and charitable deuotion giuen at seuerall times in the yeare towardes the releasement of poore captiues, such as are constrained to abide most bilde and grieuous tortuers, especially the tortuer and torment of conscience which grieued me & all trew Christians to the very soule: for the Turke by all meanes possible would still perswade me and other my fellow Christians while I was there the time of thirteene yeares, to forsake Christ, to deny him, and to beleeue in their God Mahomet: which if I would haue doone, I might haue had wonderfull preferment of the Turke and haue liued in as great felicitie as any Lord in that countrey: but I utterly denyed their request, though by them greeuously beaten naked for my labour, and reuiled in most detestable sort, calling me dogge, diuell, helhound and such like names: but I giue God thankes he gaue me strength to abide with patience these crosses. And though I were but a simple man voyde of learning, yet still I had in remembrance that

Christ

Christ died for me, as appeareth by the holy Scriptures, and that Christ therein sayth, he that denyeth mee before men, I will deny him before my father which is in heauen: and againe he sayth, who soeuer beleeueth on mee shall be saued, and haue life euerlasting: this comfort made me resolute, that I would rather suffer all the torments of death in the world, then to deny my Sauiour and Redeemer Christ Iesus.

After my free libertie graunted in Turkey, I intending my iourney towardes England, came by land to Venice, where I met at Padua thirtie Englishmen students, I met also with an English man, who lined in the state of a Fryer, he brought me before the high Bishoppe, where I was accused for an heretick, and he brought in two false witnesses to be sworne against me (hauing before knowen me in Turkey) nevertheless I disproued his witnesses and they were found forsworne men, then was I set at libertie, and constrayned to giue fifteene Crownes towards the finishing of our Ladies shrine at Padua: and my accuser and his witnesses were punished.

From thence I came to the Duke of Ferrara, where I was well entertayned and liberally rewarded with a horse and fiue and twentie Crownes for the sake of the Quéenes Maiestie of England.

From thence with my passport, I came to Bolony in Italy, where I met with a popish Bishop being an English man which shewed me great friendshippe he is called Doctor Pole: from thence to Florence, there I met with an English gentleman named maister John Stanley. And from thence I went to Rome, there I was nineteene daies in trouble with the Pope, and the English Cardinall Doctor Allen, a notable Arch-papist, where I was often examined, but finding nothing by me, they let me passe, and vnderstanding that I had beene a captiue long time in Turkey, the Pope gaue me his blessing and twentie and

fiue crownes. And before I went out of Rome, I was againe taken by the Englith Colledge, and put there into the holy house three dayes, with a fooles coat on my backe halfe blew halfe yallowe, and a cockescombe with three belles on my head, from whence I was holpen by meanes of an Englishman whom I found there, and presented my petition and cause to the Pope: who againe set me at libertie. From thence I departed to Naples, where I met with a Genowis, who apprehended me and brought

brought me there before the vice-Roy, saying I was a man of great knowledge and an English spie. Then I was committed to a darke dongeon xvi. dayes, which time they secretly made enquiry where I had lyen before, what my wordes and behauiour had beene while I was there, but they could finde nothing by me.

Thrice had I the strappado, hoysted vp backward with my handes bound behinde me, which stroke all the ioynts in my armes out of ioynt, where a Phisition was readie to set my armes in ioint againe presently, I was also constrayned to drinke salte water and quickelyme, and then a fine lawne or callico thrust down my throat and pluckt vp againe ready to plucke my hart out of my belly, all to make me to confesse that I was an English spie. After this there were foure barde horses prepared to quarter me, and I was still threatned to die except I would confesse some thing to my harme.

Thus seuen monethes I endured in this miserie, and yet they could finde no cause against me, then I wrote to the Vice-Roy to do me iustice, he did write to the K. of Spaine to knowe what should be done with me: whereuppon the king of Spaine wrote that I should be employed in a gunners rome: then was I entertained, and had 35. crownes a moneth, and had the kings pattent sealed for the same, and then vnderstanding that three ships were comming to-wardes England, I departed & fled from thence with them to my native Countrey, in the Grace of London by the helpe of one Nicholas Nottingham maister therof. Thus came I into Englande with great ioy and hearts delight, both to my selfe and all my acquaintance.

The report in Rome, Naples, and all ouer Italy, in my trauell which was at such time as the Spaniards came to inuade England, after I had been released of my imprisonment, as I passed through the streetes, the people of that partes asked mee howe I durst acknowledge my

selfe to be an English man, and thereupon to daunt me, did say, that Englande was taken by the Spanyardes, and that the Quéene of Englande (whome God long preserue) was taken prisoner, and was comming towardes Rome to do penaunce: and that her highnesse was brought thither, through deserts, moist, hilly and foule places: and where plaine ground was, holes and hollow trenches were digged in the waye of her Maiesties passage, to the intent that shée might haue gone vp to the mid legge in ves or mire: with these spéeches they did checke me, and I said, that I trusted God doubtles would defend my Prince better, then to deliuer her into the handes of her enemies, wherefore they did greatly reuile mée.

Many things I haue omitted to speake of, which I haue séene and noted in the time of my troublesome trauell. One thing did greatly comfort me which I saw long since in Sicilia, in the Citie of Palerme, a thing worthie of memory, where the right honourable the Earle of Orenford a famous man for Chiualry, at what time he trauelled into forraine Countries, béeing then personally present, made there a challenge against al maner of persons whatsoeuer, & at all maner of weapõs, as Turnements, Barriers with Horsse and armour, to fight and combat with any whatsoeuer, in the defence of his Prince and Countrey: for which he was verie highly commended, and yet no man durst be so hardy to encounter with him, so that al Italy ouer, he is acknowledge deuer since for the same the onely Chiuallier and Noble man of England. This title they giue vnto him as worthely deserued.

Moreouer, in the lande of Egypt néere to the Riuer of Nilo, within fiue miles of the gran Caer. There are seuen Mountaines builded on the out side, like vnto the point of a Diamond, which Mountaines were builded in King Pharaos time to kéepe corne in, and they are Mountaines of great strength. It is said that they were builded about that

time

time when Ioseph did lade home his brethrens Asses with corne, in the time of the great dearth mencioned in the scripture. At whiche time all their corne lae in those Mountaines.

In the Riuer of Nilo, there is long Fishes of tenne or twelue foote long, which swimmeth neere the shore, they are called the Fishes of King Pharao, they are like vnto a Dolphin. These Fishes are so subtle, that swimming neere the shore side, they will pull men or women sodeinly into the Riuer and deuoure them.

In the Citie of the gran Cayr, the houses are of a verie old building, all of Lime and stone, and in most of the houses the roofes are couered with fine golde, in a verie workemanly sort.

In Egypt there is small store of water, because it neuer raineth in that Country, so that their water is very daungerous to drinke. They haue no springs at all in that country, and yet there falleth such a dew euerie night, as doth refresh and keepe their hearbes and plants in due sort, and makes them spring verie fruitfully.

The people of those countries before mentioned are for the most part of a reasonable stature, yet of a brounish and swart complection: their women do goe muffled, and generally in the land of Iewry they weare hye steepled hats, much like vnto the forme of a Suger loafe.

The Citie of Damasko is very fruitfull and greatly replenished with all maner of fruites whatsoeuer, as Pombgranades, Orenges, Limons, Apples, Peares, Plumbes, Grapes, and all other like fruits.

The Turkes are a people that at some time they will attempt to do wonderfull thinges, as going vpon Ropes, and thrusting their swordes into their naked flesh, & sticke their swordes in their flesh like vnto a Scabbard: and many other things of great daunger.

In Turkey no man may strike the gran Cadie, that is

their chiefest Iudge, if any man do strike him, he loseth his right arme for his labour, without redemption.

At my comming ouer into England from Rome, I was faine to steale away, being then reteined in yéerly fée to the King of Spaine, to be one of his cheefest Gunners. And if the Ship wherein I came ouer, had béen taken, both they and I my selfe had died for that offence.

The old Citie of Ierusalem, is a verie desolate place, nothing to be séene but a litle of the olde walles which is yet remaining, and all the rest is grasse, mosse, and weedes, like to a péece of ranke or moist ground. They haue no tillage in thos parts.

The Citie of Ierusalem where the Temple standeth, is almost a mile from the olde walles of Ierusalem: it is of a very old building, and there standeth all the olde relikes preserued and kept as monuments of great treasure.

Now to returne where I left of, and declare vnto you wherein I imployed my selfe since my comming into England: here I visited my friends from May till November, and then departed into Fraunce, where I had entertainment at the hands of the renowmed King and Captaine of this age, Henry of Burbon King of France and Nauarre, who receiued me into paie, and appointed me his maister Gunner in the field.

So that vpon Ashwednesday last, at his most renowned Battell fought on the plain of Saint Andrew néer Dreux. I was in seruice vnder him, where I gaue three charges vpon the enemy, and they in stead thereof, gaue vs fiftéene shotte, and yet God be thanked preuailed not against vs. There were wée constrained to make Bulwarkes of the dead bodies of our enemies & Horses: where for my paines taking that day, the King greatly commended me, and honourably rewarded mée. But some after my first arriuall in Fraunce, I was hated by some lewde Gunners, who enuying that I shoulde haue the title to bee maister

Gunner

Gunner in Fraunce, practised against mée, and gaue mée poyson in drinke that night: which thing when the King vnderstood, he gaue order to the Gouernour of Dépe, that his Phisition should presently sée vnto mée, who gaue mée spéedily Vnicornes horne to drinké, and there, by God and the Kings good meanes, I was againe restored to my former health.

It is to be remembred that at this great battaile I made one shot of such an vnaccustomed mixture that did slay the kinges enimies in great aboundance, whereat the enimies greatly wondred, considering they could neither find bullet, chainshot, nor couldsée any other thing mixe then plaine pouder, and yet the people straungely slaine out right, and lay deade in great aboundance.

At my departure forth of Fraunce, the Kinges Secretary

ecretarie gaue me certaine letters of recommendation to beare with me to the States of England, wherein was declared my good seruice, and how willing he was still to haue employed me in his warres, and would haue giuen me sufficient rewardes if with him I would haue remained: but being sent for, to come againe into my native countrie, to the entent to be employed in her maiesties affaires, I could doe no lesse but make haste towards England to take in hand any seruice which I were able to performe.

At which time I being in the French Kinges court, and ready to depart towards England, there came certaine newes to the King from Roane: that Monsieur de Lego Captaine of the castle in the said towne of Roane, with sundry other protestants, being gentlemen and gentlewomen of good account had conspired against the traitorous Leagers that doe there rebelliously withstand the King, and had yelded vp the Castle with the keyes vnto a Captaine of great courage, to the vse of the French King: whereupon all the power this captaine could make, was not able to keepe it aboue halfe a day: for the Kings power lay fare from the same, yet vpon the suddaine they made towards Roane so fast as they might. But all they did was in vaine, for before the Kinges forces could get within fiue myles of the said towne, the enimie had wonne it againe by force of cannon shotte, and tooke sundry persons as prisoners which they found in the said Castle, and apprehended sundry other in the towne which consented thereunto. Among whom was a Lady and her three waiting gentlewomen, who were by the leager and traitours to the king, taken and imprisoned.

The Captaine in the saide castle perceiuing that the enimy would haue grieuously tormented him, stoode vpon battelments of the saide castle, and fought very valiantly, and would not yeld, nor suffer him selfe to be taken by no meanes: but after he had slaine with his owne handes a-

bout

bout fourteene or fifteene seuerall persons, he seeing the enimie come in great aboundance vpon him, thereby entending to take him, he suddenly flung his weapons at them, and without any regarde of sauing his life, wilfully flung him selfe headlong ouer the castle wall, and thereby broake his necke: The rest were grieuously tormented and put to death for consenting thereunto.

But it greeueth me to reporte the extreame tyrannye which those Traitorous Leagers inflicted vpon the Lady aforesaid and her three waiting Maides, onely for deliuering the keyes which they had in their custody. These were massacred in this manner: first they were all stripped naked in a fielde wherein they were erected: they were all seuerally by the hands and legges bound to the feet of foure sundry horses prouided for that purpose, and euery one being made fast vpon a suddaine to the horses, some whipped each horsse forward: and then with ares, swordes, and hatchets quartered them aliue: which reporte when the King vnderstode thereof, hee vowed to reuenge their death vpon those tyrannous Tormentors.

Thus haue you heard the manner of my tedious and grieuous trauaile, my miserie, slauerie, and captiuitie, which I suffered therein, the manner of some olde monuments and the customes of such as dwell in forraine Nations farre off, and in places where our Sauiour and his Apostles were resident, and preached vpon the earth: my seruices done vnder the great Turke in Persia, Tartaria, Grecia, and places of seruice: I omit herein my seruice at the taking of Tunnys, and what I did in the Royle vnder don Iohn de Austria: and many other thinges which I could here discouer vnto you, onely let this suffise, that I shall be glad, and do daily desire that I may be imployed in some such seruice as may be profitable to my Prince and Countrie.

FINIS.